

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/026,453

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 have been examined. Claims 20 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-19 and 24 are allowed, and claims 21-23 contain allowable subject matter, but are objected to due to their dependency on a rejected base claim.

Preliminary Matters

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claim 24 is allowed. However, the Examiner did not include claim 24 in the listing of allowed claims on the Office Action Summary. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the allowability of claim 24 by providing a corrected Office Action Summary in a subsequent Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

A. The Examiner has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,902,991 to Ishikawa et al (“Ishikawa ‘991”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,041 to Ishikawa et al. (“Ishikawa ‘041”). However, since Applicant has canceled claim 20, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claim is now moot.

B. The Examiner has rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa '041 in view of Ishikawa '991.

Applicant submits that claim 25 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 25 recites that each of the cavity resonators have a corresponding aperture, and the connector connects to each of the resonators through the aperture via a conductor, i.e., signals carried on the conductor are coupled through the apertures.

The Examiner maintains that Ishikawa '041 discloses the above features. However, Ishikawa '041 discloses a resonator for use in a filter or duplexer. The resonators in Ishikawa '041 are coupled by attaching metal directly to the dielectric resonator. On the contrary, there is no direct attachment of the claimed conductor to the claimed resonator of claim 25 (i.e. coupling is carried out through the apertures). Thus, Applicant submits that the method of combining a plurality of signals disclosed in Ishikawa '041 is entirely different from the method recited in claim 25. Further, Applicant submits that Ishikawa '991 fails to cure the deficient teachings of Ishikawa '041.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 25 is patentable over the cited references, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

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Allowable Subject Matter

As stated previously, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-19 are allowed, and claims 21-23 contain allowable subject matter, but are objected to due to their dependency on a rejected base claim. Since Applicant has rewritten claims 21 and 22 into independent form, Applicant submits that claims 21-23 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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